CIACO NID 81

June 10, 1981

POLAND: Financing Problems

Poland's financial difficulties remain acute, despite debt relief provided by Western government creditors in April.

Complex negotiations with Western banks on rescheduling debt repayments continue to drag.

As a result of delays and uncertainties associated with rescheduling, the Polish party Central Committee reportedly strongly favors declaring a five-year moratorium on debt payments.

If the banks agree to reschedule virtually all of the principal owed to them or continue to honor the informal moratorium on principal repayments, Poland will still need an estimated \$2.5 billion to meet its obligations this year. Despite the hard line being taken by lenders, this gap probably can be bridged.

Western creditors may provide new loans to avert the damaging impact of a default or the disruptions that would result if Warsaw had to balance its accounts with the West. Despite its present tough line, Moscow may eventually agree to extend further assistance.

Approved for Release Date AUG 1999